

Dump neighbours trash Toronto's extension plans

BY FRED SIMPSON
Staff Writer

Vaughan residents and politicians didn't need trash talk to make Toronto officials understand they want Keele Valley closed in 2002, as scheduled.

The group came out with both barrels blasting last Thursday as it warned Toronto works committee members not to consider extending the dump's life to 2006.

The committee decided Friday to re-open the process after one of the bidders revised its offer. Companies now have until the end of this month to submit new proposals and the works committee hopes to make a decision in August.

"You cannot be an environmentalist on one hand by backing the OMB hearings to save the Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill and then want to continue to expand the time for Keele Valley when you are the largest polluter in the community a mere two concessions away," said Vaughan C.A.R.E.S. spokesperson Heidi Kreiner-Ley.

Toronto has approved a \$300,000 grant to an environmental group that is before an OMB hearing to fight against any further development on the sensitive Oak Ridges Moraine in Richmond Hill.

Kreiner-Ley appeared before a special Toronto works committee meeting called to hear public reaction to a staff report recommending Keele Valley Landfill site in Maple remain open for another six years.

Also aiming verbal salvos at the committee was Vaughan Mayor Lorna Jackson, who said the city above Toronto had been a willing host for years but, "after 2002, we will no longer be a willing host."

Jackson wondered how Toronto could profess to "the Oak Ridges Moraine being a valuable water resource to be protected at all costs and, at the same time, want to dump your garbage on it."

Effluent from the Keele Valley has "already permeated almost all the way through the clay liner in some locations" that was supposed to contain it, Jackson added.

The next line of defence would be the pumping system, which is supposed to pump escaping effluent out of the sand.

Meanwhile, Kreiner-Ley told the committee members to turn down the staff recommendation and "do not waste your

time, your council's time, the province's time and the taxpayers' money in pursuing an option that clearly you will not be allowed to implement."

On first hearing the recommendations from the city's staff, Kreiner-Ley was ready "to march down here and tell you exactly what 'egg on your face' looks like, but I believe you

have the ability today to avoid that."

Kreiner-Ley also reminded Toronto council of its 1998 commitment to close Keele Valley by 2002.

"How can you be so disrespectful to the people of Vaughan and Richmond Hill after publicly and, by council vote, agreeing to close Keele Valley on schedule in 2002?"

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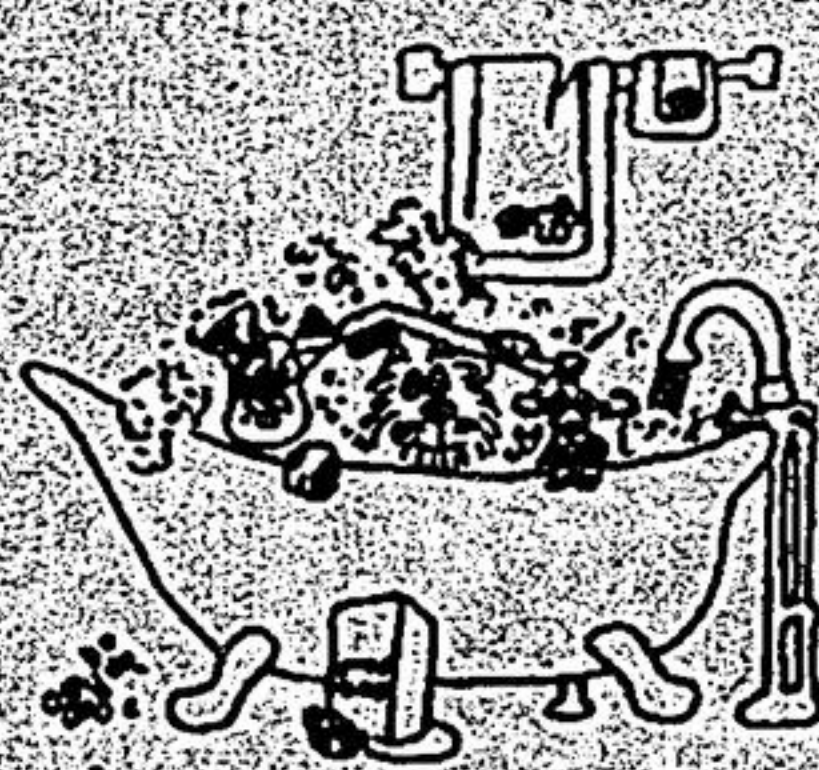
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